

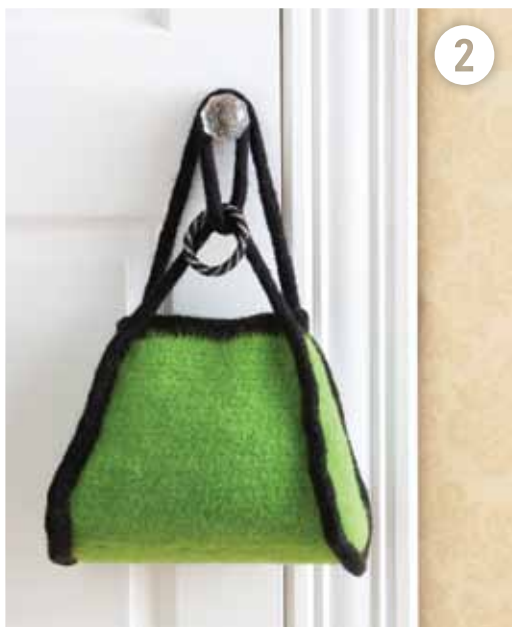
**HOW TO FELT
CROCHET:**
Felting Instructions
PLUS 4 FREE
FELTED CROCHET PATTERNS



ALL ABOUT
felted
crochet

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HOW TO FELT CROCHET: *Felting Instructions* PLUS 4 FREE FELTED CROCHET PATTERNS



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HOW TO FELT CROCHET: *Felting Instructions* PLUS 4 FREE FELTED CROCHET PATTERNS

MANY OF US HAVE ACCIDENTLY FELTED our crochet projects, but felting crochet is a great technique to create sturdy bags and warm garments and accessories. Felting is also a great technique for beginning crocheters, as the crochet felting process disguises uneven stitches.

In this free eBook, you will learn how to felt crochet and find quick and easy patterns for beautifully crocheted and felted projects. Create stunning items for yourself or to use as gifts.

In her in-depth article, "All About Felted Crochet", Amy Swensen discusses the history of felting and the difference between felting and fulling. She also details the felting process from crocheting for felting and how to felt to blocking and drying your felted piece.

You will discover what causes fibers to felt, how to choose the best yarn for felting, and learn how to choose the best gauge and pre-felting size to achieve the optimal felted fabric.

The **Beaded Ring Felted Bag** by Jill Wright is the perfect travel bag. The triangle ends and trapezoid sides are shaped in the round as you go and cleverly trimmed with piping cord before felting. This beautifully felted bag is then embellished with a simple bead crochet ring for a touch of sparkle.

Perfect for any occasion, the **Ribbon Weave Purse** by Rachel Roberts is also a great quick gift. A fun ribbon is woven between quadruple treble crochet stitches just below this felted purse's handles, making this clutch perfect for work, play, or celebration.

The **Felted Chevron Tote** by Leslie Ann Bestor is the perfect bag for a quick trip to the market or an afternoon with the girls. Variegated wool yarn adds visual interest to the easy chevron felted crochet pattern.

The **Felted Hooded Vest** by Jennifer L. Appleby is a stylishly warm top you can felt on purpose. This felted vest is the perfect project to teach you how to felt wool garments. The front is worked in stripes of V stitches—and you will love the jaunty hood.

Learn to create a new fabric with the felting instructions and felted crochet patterns in *How to Felt Crochet: Felting Instructions Plus 4 Free Felted Crochet Patterns*. Share this free eBook with your friends and post your pictures in the Crochet Member Gallery; we would love to see your work.

Happy crocheting!



Toni
Editor, CrochetMe.com

P.S. Download *5 Free Crochet Shawl Patterns: Inspiring Designs for a Lace Shawl, Irish Crochet Shawl, Prayer Shawl and More* on CrochetMe.com for another great felted shawl pattern.

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crochetme

HOW TO FELT CROCHET:
FELTING INSTRUCTIONS
PLUS 4 FREE FELTED PATTERNS

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Projects and information are for inspiration and personal use only.



All About Felted Crochet

article by Amy Swensen

Originally published in *Interweave Crochet*, Fall 2007

FELTMAKING IS ONE OF THE oldest fiber arts, dating to ancient times, long before people even considered spinning yarn, much less weaving or stitching fabric. Though its exact origins are unknown, historians speculate that the first felt was created by accident: Layers of fluffy wool fiber, stuffed in shoes for cushioning, matted into a warm boot liner over time. Soon, felt was used in nomadic societies for clothing and housing; everything from boots and coats to insulation for portable yurts were made from felt. After the industrial revolution, woven fabrics were subjected to a machine-fuling process to create warm blankets and fabric for coats, upholstery, and even machinery parts.

In recent years, crocheters and knitters have been experimenting with felting their work. A piece of fabric or a finished object is washed in hot water with a little soap and emerges smaller, denser, and with the original stitches almost unrecognizable.

What most of us call “felting” is technically “fuling.” True felt is created when unstitched wool fibers are layered and subjected to heat, friction, and moisture. When a woven, knit, or crocheted fabric is subjected to the same conditions, the process is called fuling. Throughout this article, we’ll be using the terms interchangeably, as you’re much more likely to read about felted crochet elsewhere. In either case, the final resulting fabric is quite similar. It’s strong, soft, sturdy, and water-resistant.

Crocheting for Felting

To select a yarn that’s suitable for felting, read the label carefully. Any yarn labeled as “superwash” or as “machine washable” will not felt significantly. Also

avoid blends that include plant-based or synthetic fibers, such as cotton, linen, nylon, or polyester. Any untreated animal fiber, such as wool, cashmere, alpaca, or mohair, will felt with good results, often enhancing the original properties of the fiber. For example, a hairy mohair yarn or blend of mohair and wool will felt into a rather furry and wild fabric. Smooth and slinky cashmere will retain some of its drape and lightness even after felting. The choices are so wide that it’s usually best to use a yarn similar to the one recommended by your pattern in order to achieve similar results.

Aside from yarn choice, the other key to successful felting is to select the proper hook size. Felting works best when the original stitches are loose enough to allow for the most friction to occur during the washing process, resulting in a denser, more even felt that takes less time to shrink. In general, try to go up several hook sizes from what you would use when crocheting a standard project. For example, with a worsted-weight yarn, instead of using a H/8 (5 mm) hook, consider moving up to a K/10½ (6.5 mm) or an even larger hook. Remember, because your personal tension may normally compel you to increase or decrease your hook size to achieve the required gauge, when crocheting for felting, be sure that the initial fabric looks loose, floppy, and sloppy (see Figure 1, page 6).

Instructions for Felting

Felting crochet requires supplies you likely already have in your home. Even without a washing machine, you can felt fabric in the sink using hot water and rubber gloves to protect your hands. It’s as simple as placing

the object in the sink with the hottest water and a little soap and agitating it by stirring, rubbing, or whipping the piece against the side of the sink. After enough agitation, the yarn will mat and grip together, shrinking the overall size of the piece, sometimes quite dramatically.

Felting is much easier using a washing machine. To felt by machine, place the object in a zippered pillowcase or lingerie bag to keep loosened fibers in the bag and out of your plumbing system, and toss the bag into the machine. Add a few old kitchen towels, old blue jeans, bed sheets, or T-shirts to maximize friction during agitation. Be sure to only add items you wouldn't mind staining or shrinking, as the water will be quite hot and colors may bleed. Avoid terry cloth to prevent bits of the cloth from becoming embedded in your felted item.

Set the machine to the lowest water level and the hottest wash cycle. Add a small amount of detergent or mild soap and start the cycle. If you have a top-loading machine, check the progress after ten minutes of agitation and then every few minutes after the fabric visibly begins to felt. On a front-loading machine, generally you can only open the door once the cycle has finished. While results differ from yarn to yarn and from project to project, in general you can expect a top-loader to felt a crocheted item within 20 to 45 minutes of agitation. A front-loader may take two or three full cycles.

Blocking and Drying

Once the desired amount of felting has been obtained, remove the item from the machine and wrap it in a towel, squeezing to remove excess water. While it's still damp, you have the opportunity to block the felted item by pulling and stretching it into the desired size and shape. Wet felt is extremely malleable and can be stretched around any form: a book, a ball, your feet, or anything that's the right size and shape for your project. If possible, leave the felt around the object until dry.



Even a simple trellis made from double crochet and chain stitches looks dramatic and elegant when felted. This scarf was designed by Mandy Moore and featured in Amy Swenson's book, *Not Your Mama's Crochet* (Wiley, 2006).

The Science Behind the Magic

So, why does this dramatic shrinkage happen? Animal fibers, including the ones on your own body, have millions of tiny scales. When heated, these scales rise and open into a pinecone-like shape. With agitation, the scales catch on one another and begin to stick. (Qiviut fiber is an exception to this rule; its smooth scales resist tangling and felting.) Soap speeds up the felting process by opening the scales more quickly than hot water alone. When all the fibers are interconnected, the natural space between them is compressed and the overall size of the object decreases.

Of course, it doesn't all happen at once. Fulling is a gradual process that begins with a "halo" of fuzz developing on the surface, then the fabric slowly mats and shrinks until it can shrink no more. When felting, think about the desired finished fabric. Do you want just a bit of density and fuzz to add warmth to a cozy shawl or blanket? Does the piece need to fit precisely, such as a slipper or hat? Or, should it just be as strong and durable as possible, such as a tote bag or rug? Be sure to consider these points when fulling, especially by machine. If you only need a light fulling, check the progress often and avoid using a front-loading machine so you can remove the object at any point in the cycle.

The good news is that if a piece is completely fullled, it won't easily shrink more during future washings. You'll still want to treat it like any other hand-crocheted item; a gentle wash in cool water will suffice. Be sure to re-block the item to maintain the size and shape.

Shrinkage Specifics

There's no accurate way to guess the amount of shrinkage before felting without actually testing each stitch and each yarn you plan to use. When working in the round, such as with a granny square, you can

generally expect the piece to shrink equally in length and width.

Working in rows presents a different problem. For solid stitches, such as even rows of single, half double, double, or treble crochet, the amount and direction of shrinkage will vary from stitch to stitch.

Because crocheted stitches are tubular, with space in the center of the stitch as well as between stitches, they tend to shrink into slightly more compact versions of their original shape and size. When in doubt, try it out on a swatch before committing to a full project.

Swatch, Swatch, Swatch

When playing with yarn substitutions or working on your own design, it's essential to swatch before jumping into the project. It may seem to take a lot of time and effort, but, because the felting cannot be reversed, if your felted item is too small, too skinny, too short, or too wide, your only option is to turn the work into something else with a pair of scissors and a sewing machine.

To properly swatch for felting, make two identical samples, using the same yarn, the same color, and the same hook. Felt one as you intend to felt the finished project. Because a smaller item will cause less friction on itself in the washer, be sure to add those dish towels, jeans, sheets, or T-shirts.

After the felted swatch has been blocked into shape and dried, you can measure both swatches and see the difference. Decide which measurement you will use for your project, the blocked or unblocked measurement, and use one or the other throughout. When in doubt, check the pattern's directions. Most crochet is intended to be measured unblocked, then blocked before finishing. The same goes for felted crochet. If a pattern instructs you to work in rows for twelve inches, this generally means twelve inches unblocked (and, of course, unfelted).

Next Steps

Whether you plan on working from patterns or inventing your own designs, felted crochet is an ideal form of creative expression. Experiment with different stitch



Figure 1. Two swatches, worked in even rows of half double crochet using DK weight yarn. The left swatch was crocheted loosely, using a size J/10 (6 mm) hook, the one on the right using a G/6 (4 mm) hook at a more standard tension. Both swatches have been lightly wet-blocked to emphasize the nature of each fabric.



Figure 2. As compared with the pre-felting size of the swatch, the felted sample has shrunk considerably in both height and width.



Figure 3. After felting, the more loosely crocheted swatch has shrunk to about the same size and shape as the swatch worked on the G/6 (4 mm) hook.

MORE FELTING FUN

Find more felting fun in *Interweave Felt* (on newsstands now), a special issue of felting and fulling projects, and *Felt Frenzy: 26 Projects for All Forms of Felting* by Heather Brack and Shannon Okey (Interweave Press, 2007), both available at your local yarn shop or book store or online at interweave.com.

Felting: Fabulous Wearables, Jewelry & Home Accents by Chad Alice Hagen (Lark Books, 2002)

The Art of Felting: Basic Techniques for Making Jewelry, Miniatures, Dolls, Buttons, Wearables, Puppets, Masks and Fine Art Pieces by Anne Vickrey (Watson-Guptill, 1997)

patterns, from circular motifs to Tunisian crochet. Experiment, too, with different fibers. Why not try a wool mixed with a small bit of silk? How will the silk feel after felting? Will a small amount of synthetic fiber lend an interesting texture to an otherwise plain fabric? Will holding two different yarns together create a unique effect?

The process of felting your crochet can expand your creativity and excitement about the craft. A yarn you may not love in the ball becomes something magical once felted. By felting a project, you can create a sturdy, unique, and artistic fabric that's well suited to many applications.

Want to learn more? Look into the many available resources on felting and fulling. Even if a book or article discusses fulling knit or woven fabrics, many of the principles are equally applicable to crochet. Finally, the best way to learn is to just try everything yourself. It won't take long until you fall under the magic spell of felting.

AMY SWENSON lives a yarn-filled life in Calgary, Alberta, where she co-owns Make One Yarn Studio.



Beaded Ring Felted Bag

design by Jill Wright

Originally published in
Crocheted Gifts (Interweave 2009)

INSPIRED BY HER MOTHER'S LOVE OF BEADING and the long distance that separates them, designer Jill Wright designed the perfect little travel bag. The triangle ends and trapezoid sides are shaped in the round as you go, and a little bead-crochet ring adds the perfect finishing touch. You could even make a matching necklace and earrings.

Finished Size 14" (35.5 cm) wide, 7" (18 cm) deep, and 11" (28 cm) high before felting; 11" (28 cm) wide (7" [18 cm] wide at the top), 6" (15 cm) deep, and 8½" (21.5 cm) high after felting.

Yarn Worsted-weight (Medium #4) wool (not superwash treated), about 370 yd [338 m] main color and 175 yd (160 m) contrast color. **Shown here:** Brown Sheep Lamb's Pride (85% wool, 15% mohair, 190 yds [173 m]/4 oz): Limeade #M120 (green; A), 2 skeins, and Onyx #M-05 (black; B), 1 skein.

Hook Size H/8 (5.0 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions 4 stitch markers (m); tapestry needle; 1 sheet plastic canvas; scissors; sewing needle; black sewing thread; 7" (18 cm) closed-end black zipper.

Bead Crochet Materials

Size 8 (1.5 mm) steel crochet hook; pearl cotton thread size #8; 316 size 8° opaque black seed beads (about 10 g); 158 size 8° clear silver-lined round-hole seed beads (about 5 g); large-eye beading needle.

Gauge 12½ sts and 10 rows = 4" (10 cm) in hdc with yarn and larger hook, before felting.

Notes

+ Base is worked as a flat rectangle. Stitches are picked up around the edge of the base, then strategic decreases form triangle ends and trapezoid front and back. Stitch markers (m) should be placed when picking up sts around the base to mark correct decrease placement.

+ Do not count first ch-1 in each row as a st.

+ Turn after every row unless instructed otherwise.

Base

With A, ch 45.

Row 1: Working in bottom ridge lp of ch, hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, turn—44 sts.

Rows 2–16: Ch 1, hdc in each st across, turn. Do not fasten off at the end of Row 16.

Body

Beg working in joined rnds, turning after each rnd. Move markers up every row to mark position of decreases.

Rnd 1: Ch 1, hdc across, do not turn, cont around edge of base as foll: work 23 hdc evenly spaced across row ends, hdc in 44 unused lps of foundation ch, work 23 hdc evenly across row ends, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—134 sts.

Rnd 2: Ch 1, *hdc in next 23 hdc, place marker (pm) in base of last st to mark corner, hdc in next 44 hdc, pm in base of last st; rep from * around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—4 corners marked.

Rnds 3–4: Ch 1, hdc in each st around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn.

Rnd 5: Ch 1, hdc2tog (see Glossary), *hdc to 2 sts before

next m, hdc2tog before and after m; rep from * to 2 sts before last m, hdc2tog, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—8 sts dec'd.

Rnd 6: Ch 1, hdc in each st around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn.

Rnds 7–8: Rep Rnds 5–6—118 sts.

Rnd 9: Ch 1, *hdc to m, hdc2tog after m, hdc across short end to 2 sts before next m, hdc2tog; rep from * once, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—4 sts dec'd.

Rnd 10: Ch 1, hdc in each st around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn.

Rnd 11–22: Rep Rnds 7–10 three times—78 hdc.

Rnd 23: Rep Rnd 5—70 hdc.

Rnd 24: Ch 1, hdc in next 32 sts, hdc3tog (see Glossary) over next 3 sts, hdc in next 32 sts, hdc3tog, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, turn—66 sts.

Rnd 25: Ch 1, hdc in each st around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join, change to color B, turn.

Rnds 26–29: With B, ch 1, hdc in each st around, sl st in beg ch-1 to join. Fasten off.

Handle and piping cord

With B, ch 5, sl st in first ch to form ring.

Rnd 1: Ch 1, hdc in each ch, do not join or turn—5 hdc.



Joe Hancock

BEAD CROCHET LOOP

String beads onto thread as foll: [2 black, 1 silver]; rep until 42" (106.5 cm) of beads are strung.

Place slipknot on steel hook, [bring 1 bead snug to hook, yo and draw through lp on hook to form ch] 6 times. Ch forms a comma shape. Form circle with 6 bead ch, bring first bead ch to hook and place hook under thread just to left of bead. Push bead away so it stands upright behind hook. Thread should be in front of bead, not wrapped underneath (**Figure 1**).

Bring next bead to hook (new bead should be same color as bead you are working into), hold in place behind hook, yo, pull thread through st and lp (beaded sl st). Cont in beaded sl st (**Figure 2**) to end of strung beads. Sl st without beads to make last rnd of beads stand up. Beads should stand upright once worked; colors will spiral around cord. Fasten off, leaving an 8" (20.5 cm) tail. Do not weave in end.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Rnd 2: Hdc in each hdc around.

Cont in a spiral, working 5 sts in each rnd until cord measures 2½ yd (2.25 m). Tug regularly to seat sts comfortably but allow cord to relax before measuring. Fasten off and sew end to end to form large loop.

Decorative Loop

With B, work as for handle and piping cord for 10" (25.5 cm). Fasten off. (Do not sew short ends together yet.)

Following directions on page 9, work a bead crochet loop, but do not attach before felting.

Finishing

With yarn needle and gently stretching piping cord, backstitch (see Glossary) through 1 layer of piping only to allow piping to stand proud of bag. Stitch piping down dec line toward front of bag, under bag along short end, and up other side's dec line, ending stitching before entering contrast color. Lay piping along B at the top with a little slack to form short handle. Beg stitching again down dec line on opposite edge, under bag, and up other side, ending stitching before entering contrast color. Rem lp forms long handle on front of bag.

Stitch decorative lp end to end around short strap to form a chain.

Felting

Place bag in mesh laundry bag or pillowcase. Set washing machine to hot wash, cold rinse, longest cycle. Add small amount of wool-friendly detergent. Add bag plus 1 pair of well-washed jeans to the washer (do not put in beaded ring). Run wash cycle until bag has felted to desired size. (You may remove bag to check size during wash cycle.) Remove and squeeze out excess water; do not allow to spin. Rinse by hand, squeeze out excess water. Pull to shape and stuff with plastic bags if desired to hold shape. Allow to air-dry.

Flip short decorative strap to front of bag and thread bead crochet loop through decorative loop. Using beading needle, stitch bead crochet loop end to end to form a chain. Cut plastic canvas to size, cut rounded corners, and insert in base of bag.

Sew in zipper.

JILL WRIGHT is a crochet and knit designer based in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, where inspiration abounds. She delights in teaching the arts of crochet and felting at her website www.woolcrafting.com.

Ribbon Weave Purse

design by Rachel Roberts

Originally published in
Interweave Crochet Winter 2007



Kathryn Martin

FOR WORK, PLAY, OR CELEBRATION, here is a felted bag to take you through every occasion. Quick to stitch, this accessory would also make an excellent gift.

Finished Size About 13¼" wide and 9¼" long before felting; 10" wide and 9" long after felting.

Yarn Moda Dea Cartwheel (100% wool; 77 yd [71 m]/1¾ oz [50 g];): #9823, sea blues, 3 skeins. Yarn distributed by Coats & Clark.

Hook Size J/10 (6mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions Stitch markers (m); yarn needle; 1½ yds of 5⁄8–1" wide grosgrain ribbon; sewing needle; sewing thread to match ribbon; toggle button.

Gauge 13 hdc and 10 rows = 4".

Skill Level Beginner.

Notes

Ch-2 counts as first hdc throughout.

Rnds are worked in a spiral without joining. Place marker (pm) in the last st of rnd to mark the end of the rnd; move m up at end of each rnd.

Stitch Guide

Quadruple treble crochet (qtr): Yo 5 times, insert hook in st indicated, yo and pull up a lp (7 lps on hook), *[yo and draw through first 2 lps] 6 times.

Clutch

Ch 32.

Row 1: Working in bottom ridge of chain, hdc in 3rd ch from hook and each ch across, turn—30 hdc.

Rows 2–9: Ch 2, hdc in each hdc across, turn.

Beg working in the rnd: Work in row ends as foll:

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 2 hdc in first st (corner), hdc in each hdc to last hdc, 2 hdc in last hdc to turn corner, hdc in end of each of 7 rows, 2 hdc in next row end, hdc in unworked lps of foundation ch to last ch, work 2 hdc in last ch to turn corner, hdc in end of each of 7 rows; do not join, pm in last st—78 hdc.

Rnds 2–14: Ch 2, hdc in each hdc around.

Rnd 15: Ch 7 (count as qtr), qtr (see Stitch Guide) in first hdc, qtr in each hdc to last st, sk last hdc, sl st in top of beg ch-7 to join, ch 2—77 qtr.

Rnd 16: Ch 2, hdc in each qtr around—77 hdc.

Rnds 17–18: Ch 2, hdc in each st around. Lay bag flat, find center of front and pm in st, count 8 sts from both sides of marked st and pm. Rep on opposite side of bag.

Rnd 19: Ch 2, *hdc in each st to marked st, ch 15, sk 15 hdc, hdc in next marked st, rep from * once, hdc in each st to end.

Rnd 20: Ch 2, hdc in each st and ch around—73 hdc.

Rnds 21–22: Ch 2, hdc in each hdc around.

Rnd 23: Sl st in each hdc around.

Rnd 24: Sl st in each sl st around. Fasten off.

Finishing

Button loop: Join yarn with sl st to the bottom corner of one handle opening; sl st in next 8 sts, tightly ch 15, sl st in same st, sl st to end of handle opening. Fasten off and weave in loose ends. Place bag in pillowcase. Place pillowcase in washing machine set for smallest load with hottest water and add a small amount of mild detergent (1 tbl of baking soda in the wash may speed felting). Run through 1 agitation cycle. Remove bag and check felting. Rep until felted sufficiently and bag is desired size. Rinse in cold water to stop the felting process and remove soap. Pull bag into shape and allow to fully dry away from sun or heat (this may take 1–2 days). Felting will cause a certain amount of pilling, which is easily removed by brushing briskly with a hard

nylon brush. **Add ribbon:** Once dry, place bag flat with buttonloop in back. Weave ribbon through every third slot left by the qtr, starting with the slot directly underneath the left-hand handle join. Tie ribbon in bow. With sewing needle and thread, sew the bow to the bag. Fold under ribbon ends twice, sew. With yarn and yarn needle, sew toggle button to center of bag beneath the handle opposite the button loop. Weave in loose ends.

RACHEL ROBERTS and her husband have purchased a house in the suburbs of Maryland where, together, they enjoy making improvements to their new home. Rachel loves her husband of three years, her cat of six years, and her Terps forever.

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Felted Chevron Tote

design by Leslie Ann Bestor

Originally published in
Interweave Crochet Winter 2007

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Kathryn Martin

Finished Size About 12" wide and 13½" tall.

Yarn Nashua Handknits Woolly Stripes (100% wool; 88 yd [80 m]/1¾ oz [50 g]); #: #WS31 fiesta, 8 balls. Yarn distributed by Westminster Fibers.

Hook Size K/10½ (6.5 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions Stitch markers (m), yarn needle, 9" long purse handles.

Gauge 18½ sts and 12½ rows = 4" in sc before felting; 24 sts and 10 rows = 4" in patt st after felting.

Skill Level Easy.

Stitch Guide

Chevron pattern (multiple of 18 sts + 15):

Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each of next 6 ch, *3 sc in next ch, sc in each of next 7 ch, insert hook in next ch, yo and pull up a lp, sk next ch, insert hook in next ch, yo and pull up a lp (3 lps on hook), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook, sc in each of next 7 ch; rep from * until 8 ch rem, end with 3 sc in next ch, sc in each of next 7 ch, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc2tog (see Glossary), sc in each of next 6 sc, *3 sc in next sc, sc in each of next 7 sc, insert hook in next sc, yo and pull up a lp, sk next sc, insert hook in next sc, yo and pull up a lp (3 lps on hook), yo and draw through all 3 lps on hook, sc in each of next 7 sc; rep from * until 9 sts rem, end with 3 sc in next sc, sc in each of next 6 sc, sc2tog over last 2 sc, turn.

Rep Row 2 for chevron patt.

Bag

Ch 88. Work in chevron patt (see Stitch Guide) over 87 sts until piece measures 34½" from beg, along side edge. Fasten off. **Side seam:** Fold piece in half widthwise with RS together, sew zigzag edges together to form a tube. **Bottom:**

Row 1: With RS facing, place marker (pm) 12½" to left of seam on bottom edge of tube, join yarn with sl st at seam on bottom edge of tube, ch 1, work 40 sc in edge bet seam and m, turn.

Rows 2–12: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Fasten off. Sew sides and end of bag bottom to bottom edge of tube.

Finishing

Weave in loose ends. Place bag in zippered pillowcase and put in washing machine. Add small amount of mild soap, set water temperature to hot, using lowest water level and normal agitation. Check bag every few minutes during agitation until felted to desired size. Rep cycle as needed. Rinse in cold water, then roll in a large towel to remove excess water. Stretch bag into shape, then stuff with plastic bags and allow to air-dry. Sew on bag handles.

LESLIE ANN BESTOR designs, teaches, and works at a large yarn store in Northampton, Massachusetts. She's not sure if this arrangement is a case of a kid in a candy shop or the fox guarding the henhouse.

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Felted Hooded Vest

design by Jennifer L. Appleby

Originally published in
Interweave Crochet Fall 2007

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Kathryn Martin

Finished Size 35–36 (39¾–40¾, 45¼–46¼, 50¾–51¾)" bust circumference, with toggle buttoned. Size depends on the degree of felting. Vest shown measures 35".

Yarn Reynolds Lite Lopi (100% virgin wool; 109 yd [100 m]/1¾ oz [50 g];): #1414 violet heather (A), 7 (8, 9, 9) skeins; #1411 sun yellow (B), 1 skein; #1406 spring green heather (C), 1 (2, 2, 2) skeins; #1409 garnet red heather (D), 1 skein. Yarn distributed by JCA.

Hook Sizes J/10 (6.0 mm) and K/10½ (6.5 mm). Adjust hook size if necessary to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions Yarn needle; 1½" toggle button, 1; removable markers.

Gauge Before felting: 11 dc and 7 rows = 4" in V-st patt with smaller hook; after felting: 11¾ dc and 7½ rows = 4" in V-st patt with smaller hook.

Skill Level Intermediate.

Stitch Guide

V-st: 2 dc in same sp or in center of V-st from previous row.

Front

With larger hook and A, ch 53 (61, 69, 77).

Row 1: (RS) Sc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch across, turn—52 (60, 68, 76) sc.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

Row 3: (Set-up row) With smaller hook, ch 3 (counts as dc here and throughout), sk first sc, *2 dc in next sc (one V-st made), sk next sc; rep from * to last sc, dc in last sc, turn—25 (29, 33, 37) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end of row and 1 ch-3 at other end of row.

Row 4: Join B in first st, ch 3, *sk next 2 dc, V-st (see Stitch Guide) in center of V-st from previous row (in sp between the 2 dc of V-st); rep from * to last 2 sts, sk next dc, dc in top of turning chain (tch), turn.

Rows 5–6: With C, rep Row 4.

Row 7: With D, rep Row 4.

Rows 8–9: With A, rep Row 4.

Note: Rows 4–9 form the color patt sequence; cont in est color sequence throughout, changing colors when necessary.

Rows 10–29 (29, 33, 33): Work even in V-st patt as est, foll color patt. Fasten off, turn work. Shape armholes:

Row 1: (WS) Join yarn in center of 2nd (3rd, 3rd, 4th) V-st, ch 3, *V-st in center of next V-st; rep from * to last 3 (4, 4, 5) V-sts, dc in next V-st, dc2tog (see Glossary) over same V-st and rem V-sts, turn—20 (22, 26, 28) V-sts plus 2 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Split for front neck opening as foll: Left neck:

Row 1: Ch 3, sk first V-st, V-st in center of each V-st to last V-st, dc in next V-st, turn—8 (9, 11, 12) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Sizes 35–36 (39¾–40¾)" only:

Rows 2–10: Ch 3, V-st in center of each V-st, dc in tch.

Sizes 45¼–46½ (50¾–51¾)" only:

Row 2: Ch 3, V-st in center of next V-st to last V-st, dc in center of last V-st, turn—10 (11) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Rows 3–12: Ch 3, V-st in center of each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn.

All Sizes

Shape upper left neck:

Row 1: (RS) Ch 3, [V-st in center of next V-st] 4 (5, 6, 7) times, dc in next V-st, dc2tog over same V-st and next V-st, turn—4 (5, 6, 7) V-sts plus 2 sts at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Row 2: Ch 3, sk 3 dc, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st across, dc in tch, turn—4 (5, 6, 7) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Row 3: Ch 3, [V-st in center of next V-st] 3 (4, 5, 6) times, dc in next V-st, turn—3 (4, 5, 6) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Row 4: Ch 3, V-st in center of next V-st and in center of each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn.

Row 5: Ch 1, sc in first dc and in each dc across—8 (10, 12, 14) sc. Fasten off.

Right neck: With RS of work facing and working in color patt sequence as for left neck, join yarn in 2nd V-st from edge of left neck on Row 1 of armhole shaping.

Row 1: Ch 3, [V-st in center of next V-st] 8 (9, 11, 12) times, dc in next V-st, turn—8 (9, 11, 12) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Sizes 35–36 (39¾–40¾)" only:

Rows 2–10: Rep Rows 2–10 of left neck. Fasten off.

Sizes 45¼–46½ (50¾–51¾)" only:

Row 2: Ch 3, sk first V-st, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn—10 (11) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

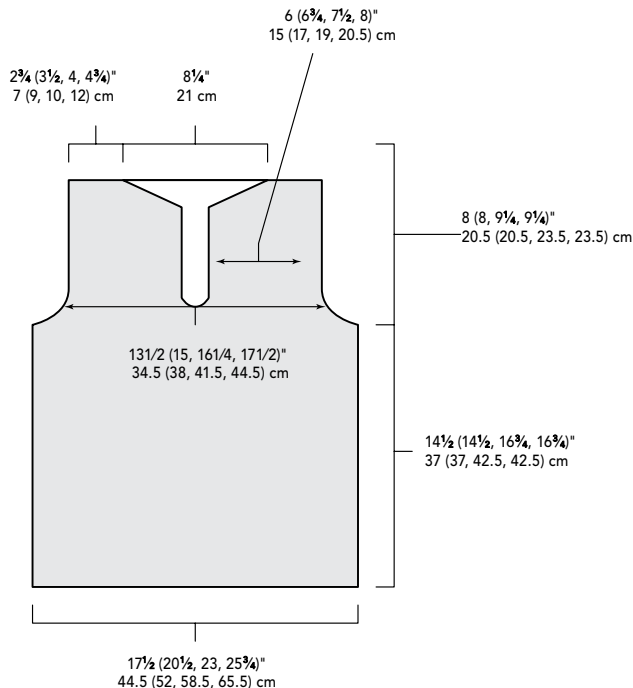
Rows 3–12: Rep Rows 4–13 of left neck. Fasten off.

All Sizes

Shape upper right neck:

Row 1: (RS) Sk first dc and next 2 V-sts, join yarn to center of next V-st, ch 3, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn—5 (6, 7, 8) V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end.

Row 2: Ch 3, [V-st in center of next V-st] 3 (4, 5, 6) times, dc in next V-st, dc2tog over same V-st and next V-st, turn—3 (4, 5, 6) V-sts plus 2 sts at one end and ch-3 at other.



Row 3: Ch 3, sk 3 dc, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn—3 (4, 5, 6) V-sts, plus 1 dc at one end and ch-2 at other end.

Row 4: Ch 3, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in top of tch, turn.

Row 5: Ch 1, sc in each dc across—8 (10, 12, 14) sc. Fasten off.

Back

With A only, work as for front to armhole. Work armhole shaping as for front, but omit neck shaping, cont even on 40 (44, 48, 52) sts until Row 3 of upper right neck shaping is completed. **Left shoulder:**

Row 1: (WS) Ch 3, [V-st in center of next V-st] 3 (4, 5, 6) times, dc in next V-st, turn—8 (10, 12, 14) dc.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc in each dc across—8 (10, 12, 14) sc. Fasten off.

Right shoulder: With WS of work facing, join A to 4th (5th, 6th, 7th) from last V-st from right armhole.

Row 1: Ch 3, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 sts, dc in tch, turn—8 (10, 12, 14) dc.

Row 2: Rep Row 2 of left shoulder.

Weave in loose ends. With RS tog and using smaller hook and A, join shoulders with sl st. Turn work RS out. **Shape hood:**

Row 1: Beg at top of right-front neck opening, with A and larger hook, 14 sc evenly spaced from right-front neck edge to shoulder, 31 sc across back neck, and 15 sc along left-front neck to opening edge—60 sc. Fasten off.

Row 2: With RS facing, A, smaller hook, and beg again at right-front neck edge, join yarn in first sc, ch 3, *V-st in next sc, sk next sc; rep from * to last sc, dc in last sc, turn—29 V-sts plus 1 dc at one end and ch-3 at other end. Make sure V-sts line up with V-sts on back.

Row 3: Ch 3, sk 2 dc, V-st in center of next V-st and in each V-st to last 2 dc, dc in top of tch, turn.

Rows 4–24: Rep Row 3. Fasten off.

Fold hood in half widthwise with RS tog, matching the beg and end of last row. With A, larger hook, and beg from outside edge, sl st hood seam tog. Fasten off. **Hood and neck edging:** With RS facing, A, larger hook, and beg at hood seam, work 37 sc along left

edge of hood to left front-neck opening, 15 (15, 17, 17) sc to bottom of left-front neck, 5 sc across bottom, 15 (15, 17, 17) sc along right-front neck edge, and 37 sc along right edge of hood to seam—109 (109, 113, 113) sc. **Next rnd:** Sc in first st of last rnd, place marker (pm), sc in each of next 36 sts to neck opening, sc in next 14 sts, sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in next 14 sts to top of neck edge, sc in next 37 sts to top of hood, sl st to marked st. Fasten off.

Armhole edgings: With RS of front and back tog, sew side seams with mattress stitch (see Glossary).

Rnd 1: With RS facing, A, and larger hook, beg at side seam at underarm, sc 57 (57, 63, 63) evenly around armhole.

Rnd 2: Sc in first st of last rnd, pm, sc in each of next 56 (56, 62, 62) sts, sl st to marked st. Fasten off.

Rep Rnds 1–2 for second armhole. Remove m. Weave in loose ends.

Felting

Set washing machine to hottest water setting, medium water level, and longest agitation cycle. Add a little soap and run the water. Add vest and agitate (do not let machine go into rinse or spin cycle) until vest is desired size. Size is highly adjustable, depending on the amount of felting; watch felting carefully. Once vest is desired size, remove from machine, gently squeeze out excess water, and lay on towels. Stretch and pin the garment to measurements according to schematics and leave for a couple of days to fully dry.

Button Loop and Button

With RS facing, 2 strands of A, and smaller hook, join yarn to right-front neck opening about 1 row down from hood and about 1 row in from edge. Ch 6, insert hook 1 row directly above join and sl st. Fasten off. Weave in loose ends. With 2 strands of A, sew toggle button on left-front neck edge opposite button loop. Weave in loose ends.

JENNIFER L. APPLEBY designs crochet and knitwear from a small mountaintop in British Columbia. View her line of patterns at www.thewoolleearth.com.

Glossary

Abbreviations

beg	begin(s); beginning	rem	remain(s); remaining
bet	between	rep	repeat; repeating
blo	back loop only	rev sc	reverse single crochet
CC	contrasting color	rnd(s)	round(s)
ch(s)	chain	RS	right side
cm	centimeter(s)	sc	single crochet
cont	continue(s); continuing	sk	skip
dc	double crochet	sl	slip
dec(s)('d)	decrease(s); decreasing; decreased	sl st	slip(ped) stitch
est	established	ss	slip stitch
fdc	foundation double crochet	sp(s)	space(es)
flo	front loop only	st(s)	stitch(es)
foll	follows; following	tch	turning chain
fsc	foundation single crochet	tog	together
g	gram(s)	tr	treble crochet
hdc	half double crochet	WS	wrong side
inc(s)('d)	increase(s); increasing; increased	yd	yard
k	knit	yo	yarn over hook
lp(s)	loop(s)	*	repeat starting point
MC	main color	**	repeat all instructions between asterisks
m	marker	()	alternate measurements and/or instructions
mm	millimeter(s)	[]	work bracketed instructions a specified number of times
patt(s)	pattern(s)		
pm	place marker		
p	purl		

Glossary

Crochet Gauge

To check gauge, chain 30 to 40 stitches using recommended hook size. Work in pattern stitch until piece measures at least 4" (10 cm) from foundation chain. Lay swatch on flat surface. Place a ruler over swatch and count number of stitches across and number of rows down (including fractions of stitches and rows) in 4" (10 cm). Repeat two or three times on different areas of swatch to confirm measurements. If you have more stitches and rows than called for in instructions, use a larger hook; if you have fewer, use a smaller hook. Repeat until gauge is correct.

Crochet Chain (ch)

Make a slipknot on hook. Yarn over hook and draw it through loop of slipknot. Repeat, drawing yarn through the last loop formed.



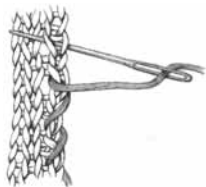
Slip Stitch Crochet (sl st)

Insert hook into stitch, yarn over hook and draw loop through stitch and loop on hook.



Whipstitch

With right side of work facing and working one stitch in from the edge, bring threaded needle out from back to front along edge of knitted piece.



Double Crochet (dc)

*Yarn over, insert hook into a stitch, yarn over and pull a loop through stitch (three loops on hook; Figure 1), yarn over and draw it through two loops (Figure 2), yarn over and draw it through the remaining two loops (Figure 3). Repeat from *.

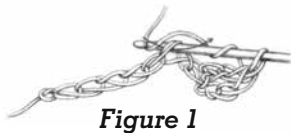


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Foundation Single Crochet (fsc)

Chain two (Figure 1). Insert hook in second chain from hook, pull up a loop. Yarn over, draw through one loop (the "chain," Figure 2). Yarn over, draw through two loops—one single crochet with its own chain (shaded) at the bottom (Figure 3). *Insert hook under the two loops of the chain (shaded) of the last stitch and pull up a loop, yarn over and draw through one loop, yarn over and draw through two loops. Repeat from * for length of foundation (Figure 5).

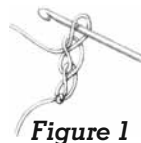


Figure 1

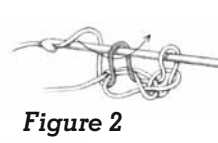


Figure 2

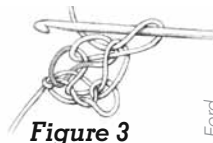


Figure 3

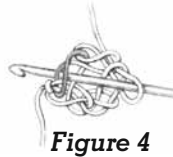


Figure 4

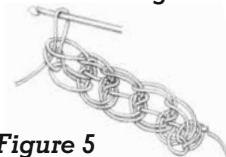


Figure 5

Single Crochet (sc)

Insert hook into a stitch, yarn over hook and draw a loop through stitch, yarn over hook (Figure 1) and draw it through both loops on hook (Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Single Crochet Two Together (sc2tog)

Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over, pull up loop (2 loops on hook, Figure 1), insert hook in next stitch, yarn over, pull up loop (3 loops on hook), yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on hook (Figure 2)—1 stitch increased (Figure 3).



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Reverse Single Crochet (rev sc)

Working from left to right, insert crochet hook into an edge stitch and pull up a loop, yarn over and draw this loop through the first one to join. *Insert hook into next stitch to right (Figure 1), pull up a loop, yarn over (Figure 2), and draw through both loops on hook (Figure 3). Repeat from *.

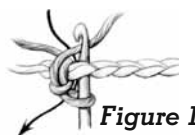


Figure 1

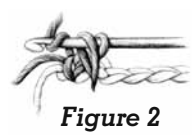


Figure 2



Figure 3

Glossary

Mattress Stitch

With RS facing, use threaded needle to *bring the needle through the center of the first stitch or post on one piece, then through the center of the corresponding stitch or post of the other piece. Repeat from * to end of seam.



Figure 1

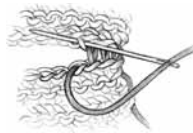


Figure 2

Backstitch Embroidery

Bring threaded needle up between the first 2 stitches, then back down through both layers, 1 stitch to the right, *bring needle up through both layers 1 stitch to the left of the previous stitch, then back down through the same hole used before; repeat from *.

Half Double Crochet Two Together (hdc2tog)

[Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop] 2 times, yarn over and draw through all loops on hook—1 stitch decreased.

Half Double Crochet Three Together (hdc3tog)

[Yarn over, insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up loop] 3 times, yarn over and draw through all loops on hook—2 stitches decreased.